ATTR Syntax: Attr filename [permissions] Usage : Examine or change the security permissions of a file Opts: -perm = turn off specified permission perm = turn on specified permission -a = inhibil rms: d - directory file s - ndto owner w - write permit AUSTRALIAN r - read permit to public te permit to public BACKUP to own pw -Syntax ge: Copies all data from **0S9** one de ead error occurs writes BASIC09 Syntax: single BUILD Syntax: Build Basic0 NEWSLETTER filenar from standard input CHD S nge working directory to Usage: Change execution specifi directory to specified path the Syntax Cmp filename! filename?
Usage: File comparison utility COBBLER Syntax: Cobbler devname
Usage: Creates OS-9 bootstrap file from current boot CONFIG Syntax n disks COPY Syntax data from one fil Syntax: Date | t Opts: t =EDITOR ame> Usage specify : Check Gordon Bentzen directory sters -m for wor 8 Odin Street = save of unused cluster $\mathbf{niv} - \mathbf{o} =$ SUNNYBANK Qld 4109 print (devname) : Del -x }<devn filenan 8 : -x = (07) 345 - 5141x: Deldir delete directo yntax: Dir the file e x x=print Usage: Display s converted characters to standard output DSAVE Syntax: Dsave [-opts] [dev] [pathname] Usage: Generates procedure file to copy all files in a directory system Opts: -b make a system disk by using OS9boot if present -b=<path> = make system disk do not using pat makdir process b NOVEMBER o num K command tandard ECHO Syn output EL oriented text edito ts text error messages for given error numbers EX Syntax: ex <modname> Usage: Chain to the given module FORMAT Syntax: Format <devname> Usage : Initializes an OS-9 diskette Opts ; R - Ready L - Logical format only "disk name" 1/2 number of sides 'No of

AUSTRALIAN OS9 NEWSLETTER Newsletter of the National OS9 User Group

EDITOR : Gordon Bentzen

HELPERS : Bob Devries and Don Berrie

SUPPORT : Brisbane OS9 Level 2 User Group.

November, 1989

So, here we are at November already. Another year has almost gone, and Christmas is just around the corner. Everyone is making their Christmas wish list. The same goes for us died-in-the-wool OS9 users. But where do we go to get our goodies? Now that InterTan Aust has left us in the lurch, where can we go?

The answer to that is really quite plain. We will go to the places which have patiently provided support all these years without necessarily making a big name for themselves. These places include Blaxland Computers, Computer Hut Software, Paris Radio, and, of course, there are a large number of software and hardware sellers in the USA and Canada who can be relied upon to provide value for money and good service.

Of course, we will need to be careful about buying from overseas companies, and I can only say that I, personally, will only buy from companies which get the 'Rainbow Seal' from 'the Rainbow' magazine. I strongly recommend that you read their reviews and write-ups before committing yourself. Now don't get me wrong, this is not an advertisement for 'The Rainbow', but should be read as a mini review of their services. Advertisements for Australian companies may be found in CoCo-Link magazine.

In this issue of our newsletter you will see another section of Ole Eskildsen's discussion of fourth generation languages and 'Sculptor', a review of the CRC Super controller, and a Basic@9 programme by Don Berrie for those of you who have purchased 'Window Writer'.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome a number of new members in our midst, people who have heard of us from the CoCo-Link magazine (thanks to Robbie Dalzell), from John Belshaw at Blaxland Computers (thanks John), or simply by word-of-mouth. Welcome!

Some of you people out there may not realise it, but we try to make this a user supported newsletter. 'Sure, I paid my \$18.00' I hear you say. Yes, you did, and I thank you for that, without that commitment we would not be here at all, but do you realise how hard it is to fill ten to a dozen pages each month with something that is of interest to every-one? I would like to get some ideas of what to write about. Would some-one volunteer to do an article or two on how to use 'Dynacalc'? How about 'PhantomGraph'? We would even consider printing the results in the newsletter of a graph made from a Dynacalc file.

I've been assured by Bob Devries that if anyone has an idea for a small utility type programme (nothing too fancy), he is willing to 'give it a bash' writing in 'C'(preferably) or BasicO9. How about it, any takers?

Are there any people reading this who have any knowledge about other OS9 systems besides Colour Computer level one and two, and are willing to share their knowledge or give me a pointer to users of such systems, I would be most grateful. I'd like to think that this newsletter is not just for Colour Computer users, but can service the wider OS9 community as well.

Like every-one else, we would like a holiday too, so we intend publishing a bumper December-January issue. Because it will be larger than normal, we will be unable to get it compiled before the beginning of December, but we hope to be able to mail it during the second week of the month.

Well, that's it from me for this month, keep the OS9 flag flying, and happy computing,

Regards, The Editor.

The following submission is part two of the series by Ole Eskildsen on fourth generation languages. The content of this series serves as an example of just what can be done with OS9 (even with the humble Color Computer) and another reason why we all need to maintain interest in this versatile Operating System. Please let us have your comments so that we can endeavour to cater to your needs. Remember, no feedback can be very difficult to deal with.

FOURTH GENERATION LANGUAGES (4GLs) AND 0S-9

PART 2 -SCULPTOR

This is the second part of my three part article on 46Ls for the 08-9 operating system. How did you find Part 1? I hope you liked it. In this part I will describe one of the 46Ls available under 08-9, namely SCULPTOR. Sculptor was developed in the UK by Microprocessor Developments Ltd and has been available for some time for 08-9. Under 08-9 it is a true multi-user system with efficient (and automatic) record locking. The programs are compiled which results in faster running programs. Besides 08-9, Sculptor is available for a great many other operating systems including MS-DOS (single-user or networked multi-user), UNIX and XENIX, DEC WAX, QNX and many, many others. Not only that, but it is object code compatible, which means that a program compiled on ANY version will execute on ANY OTHER version WITHOUT recompilation. Can you imagine: You develop a program or a complete system in Sculptor for instance on a CoCo3 (Sculptor is only available for 08-9 Level 2) and then copy it to a UNIX machine or MS-DOS or whatever and it is instantly ready to run. Of course to achieve this result it is necessary to have a run time version of Sculptor on the target machine because Sculptor compiles its programs into an intermediate object code (I-code) much like BASICO9.

So what do you get when you purchase a copy of Sculptor Development System? You get a good looking A5 size manual in a 4-ring binder in a slip case in the by now familiar PC tradition containing a couple of hundred pages. There are actually three manuals: 1) Installation Manual; 2) An Introduction to Sculptor; and 3) Sculptor Reference Manual. You further get two diskettes with the system and utilities, and the Australian Distributor has added a third diskette with a collection of useful little programs and numerous samples. I found the Sculptor Introduction very easy to go through and after spending only a short time (a coulple of hours) I was able to start experimenting with the language, and what a delight this turned out to be.

But first, what modules does the Sculptor Development System consist of? It consists of 1) A Data Dictionary. 2) Compilers for interactive Screen (also called Forms) type programs and Report type programs. These are called CF and CR respectively. 3) The run time modules to execute the programs compiled with CF and CR, called Sage (for screen type programs) and Sagerep (for report type programs). 4) Two programs which will automatically generate complete screen or report type programs from your data dictionary specifications. These are called SG for screen generator and RG for report generator. 5) A Menu program to automatically generate menus. 6) Various utility programs to perform file handling tasks, and to specify different screen and printer types, and finally a Query program to perform ad-hoc queries and reports. In other words, a complete development and run time environment with facilities to run on many different computers, terminals and printers without reprogramming.

We will now take a closer look at how all this will work for you. The best way, I think, would be by describing an example, so I will now describe the typical work sequence in a simplified form.

- 1. Systems Design You define what the system is going to accomplish.
- 2. Data Definition What data do you need to store.
- 3. Development Develop the programs, compile and test.
- 4. Production Use the program(s).

To use a simple and well worn example. Let us say we want to develop an address book. What data would we need? Probably Name, Street, Town, State, Postcode (zip code for our American friends), telephone number, etc, etc. So we decide to create a file called address, which we do by using the dictionary program called "Describe", we simply type: "describe address". We now see:

Descriptors for address

For each field enter: name,heading,type&size,format;validation Type h for help.

KEY FIELDS

We enter the information about each field, selecting one or more fields to hold the key which must be unique. When we are finished, the record description might look like this:

Descriptors for address

KEY FIELDS

1:name,NAME,a20,

DATA FIELDS

2:street,STREET,a20,

3:town,TOWN,a10,

4:state,STATE,a3,

5:postcode,PCODE,a6,

6:phone,TELEPHONE,a10,

We save the record description which creates a file called "address.d" and we can now generate a standard Screen Form program by typing:

sq address

and in less than one minute we have a program where the source program is called "address.f" and the compiled program is called "address.g". Before we can execute the program we have to create the actual data file and its associated key file called "address" and "address.k" respectively. This is done by typing "newkf address" and in seconds the empty data file is created. The Screen Form program we created presents the following screen when we type: "sage address", where "sage" is the Screen Form program run-time interpreter:

Neat, don't you agree? The second last line shows all the options, such as inserting records, finding records, amending records, and so on. All without any programming. Now go ahead and enter some records, find them again, amend them, delete them, etc.

Now that we have got some data in our file, let us create and print a report. We type: "rg address" and a moment later we have a source program called "address.q".

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To run the report we type "sagerep address" where "sagerep" is the run-time interpreter, but you had figured that out, hadn't you?

This is what the report would look like:

"ADDRESS" FILE REPORT

Page: 1 Date: 27/ 9/89

NAME	STREET	TOWN	STATE P	CODE	TELEPHONE
Bentzen, Gordon	8 Odin Street	Sunnybank	QLD 4		07-3455141
Berrie, Don	25 Irwin Terrace	Oxley	QLD 4	0 75	07-3753236
Devries, Rob	21 Virgo Street	Inala	QLD 4	0 77	0 7-3727816
Eskildsen, Ole	11 Monarch Street	Kingston	QLD 4	114	Ø7-2Ø94322

END OF REPORT

How do you like that? In less than an hour we have created a complete little system to create, store and manipulate our address book and report on it!

Are you begining to see the power of 46Ls? I hope so, otherwise I have failed in describing the benefits to you. Remember, the source programs generated can be modified by the programmer, so what I do most of the time, is to generate the standard program first and then use that to develop the final product. In the extremely simple example above we have only used one file, but you can, of course, use multiple files. You, the programmer, have complete control over everything going on, if you desire. On the other hand, it only takes minutes to generate simple applications. Another point which shows the power of Sculptor: When the Screen Form program is being compiled, the compiler examines the way files are used in the program. If a file is being updated in any way (such as in the example above) then Sculptor creates the necessary record locking, so that two persons cannot update the same record at the same time by accident. Ask the DRase (IRM PC database) programmers if they can do that automatically, or whether they have to meticulously write the record locking every time. If a file is not used for updating then no record locking is being performed. Pretty powerful stuff!

Who is using Sculptor, you might ask? Well, quite a number of individuals and organizations. For instance, Australian Telecom, a Queensland Government Department, numerous software houses, and many others.

The above is only a very small, simple example, space does not permit any more. In Part 3 I will discuss a more complex example and make you an offer you cannot refuse, I hope. Address any correspondence concerning these articles to:

Ole Eskildsen 11 Monarch St Kingston QLD 4114 Phone: (07) 209 4322

A TIDY-UP PROGRAMME FOR WINDOW WRITER*

(*) - Window Writer is a Copyrighted programme designed by Raj Dash, and published by OWL-WARE.

As promised in the last issue of the newsletter, here is my solution to return the system to the way it was before the Window Writer programme is run. See my article on Page 10 of the October issue for a description of the problem. Simply put, however, the programme Window Writer modifies your system to the extreme, and the only effective way to restore it is to reboot.

This programme was written in Basic09 so that the majority of users will be able to use the code. It could have been written in "C" and been considerably shorter (and easier), but that would have limited its usefulness. For those of you who don't have the Window Writer programme, the Basic09 code still forms a useful tutorial on some more—advanced Basic09 programming techniques.

The solution of the Window Writer problem is two-pronged. Firstly, modifications to the palette tables and window parameters can be solved by running the programme in a newly created window. When the window is finally closed, all of the above modifications die with the window. Because I wanted the fix to be system independant, I have used the /w descriptor to open the new window. This descriptor uses the next available window descriptor for the creation of the new window. The problem is however, that we don't know the name of the new window (it could be W1, W2, W9 etc or any other unused window descriptor). We have to know this in order to redirect the input and output (NOTE #1 in PROCEDURE wt) of the WW programme to this new window.

Because we know the path number that was returned when we opened the window (in the OPEN #wpath statement), we can use this value to read the path descriptor options section of the path descriptor, and get the actual window name (returned in the string variable winnam). This is accomplished in the PROCEDURE getdev.

So far so good. But now comes the difficult part.

The other part of the problem, as I explained in the last newsletter, was that a number of modules remained in memory. The cause of this problem is twofold. Firstly, some modules have a non-zero link count. Modules which have a link count are retained in memory. Secondly, modules which are merged together and loaded as a single file of less than 8K bytes (and are therefore in the same 8K block in memory), will not be unlinked until the link count of every module in that block becomes zero. Therefore some modules will be retained in memory even though their link counts are zero.

A compounding factor with this programme is that the link counts of the modules which are retained in memory (for whichever reason), change! As far as I can tell, the specific modules which remain linked, and their actual link counts, is dependant on exactly which parts of the programme are used.

My first approach involved simply using the OS9 UNLINK command via the Basic OS9 SHELL function, and continuing to unlink each module until all the link counts became zero. Unfortunately, while UNLINK does not report an error when it tries to unlink a module with a link count of zero, it does report an error when trying to unlink a module which is no longer there. This means that if you try to unlink a module which has been removed, a error is generated. Because of this, it is not possible to use an error trap (for error #221) to determine when all the link counts are zero. (Because it will generate that error as soon as the first 8K byte block is removed, and there is more than one block involved in this case).

After running the programme in a number of different ways, and using a number of different features, I determined that the two modules which always had the highest link counts were "Bchain" and "termset". Provided that I could find a way to ignore any ERROR #221's which were generated, I surmised that, provided I unlinked all the modules until those two modules were no longer linked, the all would be fine.

The method that I used involved using the system call UNLOAD via the Syscall procedure, (see page 8-42 of the OS9 Technical Reference Manual) and only checking the B register after each attempt to unlink all of the modules. Hey presto it worked! Also, it had the added advantage that the programme no longer requires that the UNLINK command be available, and is thus more system independent.

As yet I have been unable to develop a method to circumvent the merging of Window Writers custom modules with the

Runb module. The only thing that I can suggest is that you maintain a separate commands directory for this programme which has the modified Runb module located there.

To use this patch programme, simply type in the code, save it, then pack the code. Transfer the packed code to the execution directory from which you normally run Window Writer. Instead to typing www to start the programme, type wt (for Window Tidyup), and away you go.

If you have any problems, please contact me. I personally don't use Window Writer, as I do not own a copy of it. However, I have tried all sorts of combinations of commands while running Window Writer via this patch programme, and so far have not found any problems. Myself? I use Stylograph, and love it!!

```
Happy writing.
                  Cheers ... Don Berrie (07) 375-3236.
(Listing)
PROCEDURE wt
DIM wpath: BYTE
DIM winnam:STRING[32]
DIM i: INTEGER
OPEN #wpath."/w":UPDATE
SHELL "load termset"
RUN gfx2(wpath, "DWSET", 2, 0, 0, 80, 24, 4, 1, 1)
RUN gfx2(wpath, "SELECT")
RUN getdev(wpath,winnam)
SHELL "ww <>>>"+winnam (***** NOTE #1
                                              *****)
SHELL "unlink termset"
RUN unload
100 RUN gfx2(1, "SELECT")
RUN gfx2(wpath, "DWEND")
CLOSE #wpath
PROCEDURE getdev
TYPE registers=cc,a,b,dp:RYTE; x,y,u:INTEGER
DIM regs:registers
PARAM wpath1:BYTE
PARAM winnam:STRINGE323
DIM i: INTEGER
DIM callcode:BYTE
regs.a=wpath1
regs.b=$0E
regs.x=ADDR(winnam)
callcode=$8D
RUN syscall(callcode, regs)
FOR i=1 TO 32
 EXITIF MID$(winnam,i,1)>CHR$(128) THEN
 winnam="/"+LEFT$(winnam, i-1)+CHR$(ASC(MID$(winnam, i, 1))-128)
 ENDEXIT
NEXT i
END
PROCEDURE unload
TYPE registers=cc,a,b,dp:BYTE; x,y,u:INTEGER
DIM regs:registers
DIM i: INTEGER
DIM callcode: BYTE
DIM moduls(37):STRING[20]
DIM modtype(37):INTEGER
```

```
FOR i=1 TO 37
 READ modtype(i)
 READ moduls(i)
NEXT i
DATA 34, "get_name"
DATA 34, "get_menu"
DATA 34, "fcopy"
DATA 34, "frename"
DATA 33, "gfx2"
DATA 33, "SysCall"
DATA 33, "Inkey"
DATA 33, "wp_trulen"
DATA 33, "wp_putline"
DATA 33, "wp_sublen"
DATA 34, "cjustify"
DATA 34, "rjustify"
DATA 33, "wp_getline"
DATA 33, "empty_keys"
DATA 33, "space_count"
DATA 33, "cut_lead"
DATA 33, "get_ptr"
DATA 17, "PBaud"
DATA 33, "process"
DATA 33, "wp_insert"
DATA 33, "wp_delete"
DATA 33, "ctrl_search"
DATA 33, "space_search"
DATA 33, "unjustify"
DATA 34, "get_select"
DATA 33, get_mouse*
DATA 34, "froll"
DATA 34, "fget"
DATA 33, "indent_count"
DATA 33, "dumb_prt"
DATA 34, "fjustify"
DATA 34, "fsort"
DATA 33, "wait"
DATA 33, "output"
DATA 33, "fork"
DATA 33, "BChain"
DATA 33, "termset"
callcode=$1D
WHILE BOY DO
FOR i=1 TO 37
 regs.a=modtype(i)
 regs.b=0
 regs.x=ADDR(moduls(i))
 RUN syscall(callcode, regs)
 NEXT i
 IF regs.b()0 THEN
 GOTO 100
ENDIF
ENDWHILE
100 SHELL "unlink runb"
END
<End of Listing>
```

Super Controller a hardware review by Bob Devries

Package: Super Controller II

Source : CRC Computers

11 Des Laurentides Blvd.

Laval. (Quebec) CANADA. H7G 2S3

Price : US\$130.00

The CRC Super Controller II is by far the best piece of Colour Computer hardware I own besides the CoCo 3 itself. It gives me the best of both worlds. It works fine as a standard controller under RSDOS (yech) and, with the special software drivers provided, it simply flies with OS9 Level 2.

Imagine this. You want to copy all the files from one disk to another using DSAVE, but, at the same time, you must get that article for the newsletter finished. Under normal conditions, you would put off the DSAVE until later, because the newsletter has higher priority. Well, now you don't have to put it off anymore. You can run your favourite word-processor AND DSAVE at the same time! (I'm doing that right now as I type this review. The only way you'll notice that DSAVE is running is from the whirring of your drives, and the flashing of the drive activity LEDs. The drive accessing simply does not interfere with other processes running any more than normal without the drive access! Sounds great? Here's what you get:

The SCII comes in a neat aluminium box of about the same dimensions as the older TANDY controller, painted beige with the CRC Disto logo on it. Inside, there is a neatly solder masked, silk-screened printed circuit board with 21 integrated circuits on it. These include a socketed EPROM with your choice of RSDOS1.1 or CDOS, (or you can put in your own 24 pin Tandy ROM), a WD1773 disk controller IC, a 6116 2K static RAM chip, and the rest are support chips. Also on the board is a 17 pin expansion plug. The edge connectors for the computer and drive connexions are gold plated and the computer end includes 2 ground connexion tabs.

The 17 pin plug is used to attach the expansion boards which are also available from CRC. These are:

Real Time Clock and Parallel Printer adaptor
Mini EPROM programmer
RS-232 adaptor
Hard disk adaptor (SCSI bus)
Hard disk adaptor with RS-232
3 in 1 multi-board adaptor
this includes: parallel printer port

this includes: parallel printer port real time clock RS-232 port.

4 in 1 multi-board adaptor

this includes all of the 3 in 1 features plus: Hard disk adaptor (SCSI bus)

I have had my SCII for some time now, and I am really thrilled by its performance. I have had no incompatibility problems, and all my software, both OS9 and RSDOS runs perfectly with it. On a scale of 1-10 I'd rate this package an 11 !

Regards, Rob Devries

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November 1989

Here is a listing of the current membership, just in case you may wish to contact other OS9ers near you. We have not included phone numbers, as it may be that some numbers given to us are the unlisted type etc. So we suggest initial contact by the mailing addresses shown.

To members who have renewed for this subscripton year, our sincere thanks for your continued support, and to the new members we say WELCOME to the National OS9 user group. We hope that you all find something of interest in the pages of each edition.

NATIONAL OS9 USER GROUP MEMBERS as at 10/28/89 mm/dd/yy

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McLINTOCK	George	7 LOGAN STREET	NARRABUNDAH.	ACT	2524
McMASTER	Brad	119 WILLOUGHBY ROAD	CROWS NEST	NSW	2065
MORTON	David	c/o P.O.BOX 195	CONDOBOLIN	NSW	2877
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WAGNITZ	Ken	2 DEPINDO AVE.	EDEN HILLS	SA	5050

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